

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OPR-02 CU-04 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01

/110 W

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P R 272208 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4158

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: A DAY OF VIOLENCE

REF: SANTIAGO 1810

1. SUMMARY. ALL- DAY CLASHES APRIL 26 IN SANTIAGO, VALPARAISO, AND ELSEWHERE INVOLVING STUDENTS, GOVT. SUPPORTERS, OPPOSITION PARTISANS, AND POLICE LEFT HUNDREDS INJURED AND ARRESTED, EXTENSIVE BROKEN WINDOWS AND OTHER PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND GOVT. AND OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN BLAMING EACH OTHER FOR INSTIGATING VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DAY OF VIOLENCE YESTERDAY (REFTEL) WAS DESCRIBED BY EL MERCURIO AS " MOST SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN RECENT MONTHS." SANTIAGO ACTING INTENDENTE JULIO STUARDO ANNOUNCED SOME 250 PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED;

EL MERCURIO COUNTED 120 PERSONS HURT, INCLUDING FOUR WITH BULLET WOUNDS; OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS CLAIM CASUALTIES NUM-
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BERED MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT FIGURE. REMARKABLY, NO ONE WAS KILLED. COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT AND PRO- GOVT. MEDIA CITED PREVIOUS GOVT. ALLEGATIONS OF RIGHTWING PLOT OF WHICH YESTERDAY' S EVENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY INTEGRAL PART; OPPOSITION PRESS BLAMED UP PARTISANS AND " PROVACATEURS" FOR INSTIGATING VIOLENCE.

3. YESTERDAY' S EVENTS OCCURRED IN TWO GENERAL STAGES. IN MORNING, OPPOSITION- CONTROLLED SECONDARY STUDENTS RALLIED DOWNTOWN IN FRONT OF NATIONAL LIBRARY TO PROTEST GOVT. EDUCATION POLICIES. AFTER SPEECHES, RAMBLING MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN TO MINEDUCATION OFFICES MARKED BY SOME INCIDENTS AND TEAR GAS, FOLLOWED BY RALLY AT MINISTRY IN WHICH IT AND NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS WERE STONED AND MANY WINDOWS BROKEN. AS POLICE DISPERSED DEMONSTRATORS, SOME STONED LA MONEDA AS THEY FLED, BREAKING, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT ALLENDE, 36 WINDOWS. MEANWHILE, UP- CONTROLLED STUDENT FACTION MET IN CAUPOLICAN THEATER IN SUPPORT OF GOVT. EDUCATION POLICIES, THEN MARCHED TO LA MONEDA WHERE ALLENDE ADDRESSED THEM BRIEFLY. MINED TAPIA ISSUED HIS CALL FOR CALM (REFTEL) ABOUT THIS TIME. AS BOTH SIDES BROKE FOR LUNCH, NO MAJOR BATTLES HAD YET TAKEN PLACE.

4. IN AFTERNOON, ATMOSPHERE CHANGED. OPPOSITION PRESS CLAIMED UP STREET FIGHTERS ARRIVED IN GOVT. VEHICLES, WHILE UP SPOKESMEN DENOUNCED INJECTION OF " DELINQUENTS" FROM THE OTHER SIDE. UP ELEMENTS STORMED U. OF CHILE RECTOR' S OFFICE (REFTEL), WHILE CLASHES INVOLVING POLICE AND THE TWO OPPOSING BANDS CONTINUED DOWNTOWN INTO EARLY EVENING. STREET BARRICADES IN PROVIDENCIA SECTOR AND SOME DOWNTOWN BONFIRES WERE NOT CLEARED UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT. AROUND 8 P. M. INTENDENTE STUARDO ANNOUNCED POLICE HAD SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. MININTERIOR ESPINOZA, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY DENIED GOVT. WOULD IMPOSE STATE OF EMERGENCY (REFTEL), SPOKE LATER IN EVENING ON TELEVISION. BLAMING " EXTREMISTS AND DELINQUENTS" FOR CLASHES, HE VOWED GOVT. WOULD NOT TOLERATE FURTHER OUTBURSTS AND CALLED ON PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR OFFSPRING OUT OF MISCHIEF.

5. AS PART OF STUDENT PROTESTS, CLASHES ALSO TOOK PLACE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VALPARAISO, VINA DEL MAR, AND CHILLAN. DEMONSTRATIONS ALSO IN OTHER TOWNS BUT THESE APPARENTLY WERE PEACEFUL.

6. SANTIAGO INCIDENTS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED DOWNTOWN STORES, AND SOME ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING ONE BANK HAD THEIR WINDOWS BROKEN. BUS SERVICE IN AREA WAS SUSPENDED AND TRAFFIC DETOURED. RUMORS CIRCULATED OF IMPENDING

GAS STATION STRIKE (SEPTEL) CAUSING LONG LINES OF CARS
AT STATIONS REMINISCENT OF OCTOBER SHUTDOWN.

7. DRIVERS OF SANTIAGO PRIVATE BUS LINES BEGAN 24- HOUR
STRIKE OVER BREAD- AND- BUTTER ISSUES (SEPTEL) MIDNIGHT
APRIL 26. BUS DRIVERS THREATEN 48- HOUR STOPPAGE MAY 3 IF DEMANDS
NOT MET; BUS OWNERS HAVE DENOUNCED STRIKE AS " UNJUSTIFIED."
DAVIS

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